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May 2022

Connecting the DOTs

Derecho causes damage of DOT facilities and communities in Eastern South Dakota

Lake Herman State Park



Jesse Doblar at Lake Herman



Menno



Menno



Madison



Junction City



SDDOT Mission:

To efficiently provide a safe and effective public transportation system

SDDOT Vision:

Better lives through better transportation by being the best



The Secretary's Corner

SDDOT to assume responsibility for management of fleet vehicles at the beginning of FY23.



Strategic Objective: Continually Improve

Short Term Goal - Increase systematic process improvement on daily work and key work processes

The state Office of Fleet and Travel Management is currently responsible for the management of 588 DOT vehicles.

The SDDOT currently purchases all the passenger cars, mid-size utility vehicles, and pickups used by SDDOT employees, in both the Central Office and throughout the regions. Then, the Office of Fleet and Travel Management handles the maintenance and repairs of these vehicles.

The department is working with the Office of Fleet and Travel Management to transfer ownership for the full life-cycle of these vehicles, including all maintenance and repairs, to SDDOT.

This will streamline operations for DOT vehicles. Some of the anticipated benefits with this transfer are better mileage rates for DOT projects, more accurate cost tracking on vehicles, improved efficiency of maintenance and repairs, and reduced accounting between SDDOT and Fleet.

The goal is for the transfer of this entire fleet to occur by the end of the fiscal year, with all vehicles being under DOT management starting on June 24, 2022.

Watch for further details about what this transfer means for our DOT employees including new Voyager cards, fuel keys, timesheet coding, and processes for getting repairs, in an upcoming Information Interchange.

Enjoy the Memorial Day Holiday with your family and Friends.

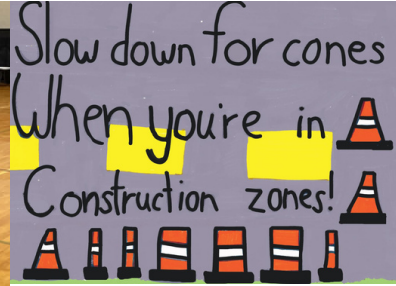
Let us come together to celebrate and express our deepest gratitude for the heroic sacrifices made by the men and women who served, and those currently serving, to bring our country peace and freedom.

Thanks to our DOT team members who attended media events to celebrate with the six billboard contest winners. <https://dot.sd.gov/inside-sddot/of-interest/work-zone-awareness-week>



4th Grade Work Zone Awareness Winner!

Kenze
Bridgewater – Emery Elementary



4th Grade Work Zone Awareness Winner!

Brady
Mitchell Christian School
Mitchell, SD



4th Grade Work Zone Awareness Winner!

Tripp
Kennedy Elementary
Pierre, SD



4th Grade Work Zone Awareness Winner!

Charlotte
St. Lambert Elementary – Sioux Falls, SD



4th Grade Work Zone Awareness Winner!

Kalley
St. Lambert Elementary – Sioux Falls, SD



4th Grade Work Zone Awareness Winner!

Khloe
St. Elizabeth Seton
Rapid City, SD



SIMON



Celebration of SDDOT Families - 2022 Graduates



Carissa Ott, daughter of Chris and Janet Ott. Chris is the Internal Services/Audits Program Manager, Central Office.

She is graduating from T.F. Riggs High School in Pierre.

Carissa plans to attend the University of South Dakota Nursing Program.



Paityn Huber is the daughter of John Huber, HMS in Yankton.

She is graduating from Menno Public School.

Paityn plans to attend Mount Marty University in Yankton to major in Human services.



Kayleigh Dueis is the step-daughter of Danny Varilek, Winter Maintenance Specialist, Central Office.

She is graduating from T.F. Riggs High School in Pierre.

Kayleigh plans to attend SDSU in Brookings to major in Early Childhood and Elementary Education.



Kyanne Beck is the daughter of Kellie Beck, Director of Finance and Management, Central Office.

She is graduating from T.F. Riggs High School in Pierre.

Kyanne plans to attend the University of South Dakota to major in Elementary Education.



Isaak Rombough is the son of Lisa Rombough, Materials & Surfacing Office, Engineer II .

He is graduating from T.F. Riggs High School in Pierre.

Isaak plans to major in Biomedical Engineering at the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology in Rapid City. Isaak worked as a summer seasonal for the Materials & Surfacing Lab during the summer of 2021 and will be working for the SDDOT again this summer.



Kailey Rolf is the granddaughter of Jerri Williams, Right of Way Supervisor/Admin-Titles.

She is graduating from T.F. Riggs in Pierre.

Kailey will be heading to basic training for the Army National Guard in July and AIT training in October. She plans to attend college at Black Hills State University in the fall of 2023.



Klarissa Gorham is the daughter of Doug Gorham, Pierre Region Operations Coordinator.

She is graduating from Mitchell Technical College with a degree in Radiologic Technology.

Following graduation she will be joining the team at Avera St. Mary's Hospital in Pierre and working in the radiology department.



Cooper Letcher is the son of Brad Letcher, Huron Area Engineer.

He is graduating from Huron High School.

Cooper is planning to continue his hockey career playing Juniors or college hockey, or possibly attend SDSU for Civil Engineering.



**Bailey Mueller is the daughter of Abby Mueller Mitchell
Region Operations Technician.**

She is graduating from the University of South Dakota with a Bachelor of Science in Biology Education.

Bailey will be teaching junior high science at Cedar Catholic High School in Hartington, NE beginning this fall.



**Andrea Peterson is the daughter of Mark (and Lisa) Peterson,
Mark is the Aberdeen Region Engineer.**

She is graduating from Aberdeen Central High School.

Andrea will be attending Mitchell Technical Institute in the Medical Lab Technician program.



**Shaylee Tople is the daughter of Jay Tople, Geotechnical
Coordinator.**

She is graduating from Stanley County High School in Fort Pierre.



**Ray Henderson is the nephew of Steve Palmer, Engineering
Supervisor in the Rapid City Area Office**

He is graduating from Sturgis Brown High School.

Ray will be attending SD Mines in Rapid City to major in Mechanical Engineering



Amy Gilkerson is the daughter of Sam and Kandi Gilkerson. Sam is a Consulting Management Engineer in the office of Road Design.

She will be graduating from Mitchell Technical College.

Amy will be starting her career in accounting at Stulken, Peterson, Lingle, Walti & Jones Certified Public Accountants.



Avery Murray is the daughter of Robert Murray, Project Technician in the Belle Fourche office.

She is graduating from Spearfish High School.

Avery plans to attend Minnesota State University in Mankato in the fall to major in Business/Finance.



Olivia Murray is the daughter of Robert Murray, Project Technician in the Belle Fourche office.

She is graduating from SDSU in Brookings in May with a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing.

Olivia has accepted a position with Allina Health at Abbott Northwestern Hospital in Minneapolis, MN.



Andraya Dowling is the granddaughter of Janice Reede, Senior Secretary for Road Design, Pierre.

She is graduating from T.F. Riggs High School in Pierre.

She plans to go to cosmetology school in Rapid City.



Addison Eisenbeisz is the daughter of Hadly Eisenbeisz and Kristin Brost. Hadly is a Bridge Construction Engineer in Pierre.

Addison is graduating from South Dakota State University with a degree in Architecture.

She will be working for Koch Hazard Architects in Sioux Falls this summer and returning to SDSU to obtain her masters in architecture this fall.



Samantha Zeltinger is the daughter of Brenda Tidball-Zeltinger and Damon Zeltinger. Damon is a Construction Specialist in the Office of Operations Support, in Pierre.

She is graduating from T.F. Riggs High School in Pierre.

Samantha plans to attend Northern State University in Aberdeen and pursue a pre-occupational therapy degree.



Katelyn Smith is the daughter of Craig Smith, Director of Operations.

She graduated from USD with a degree in Elementary Education and Special Education.

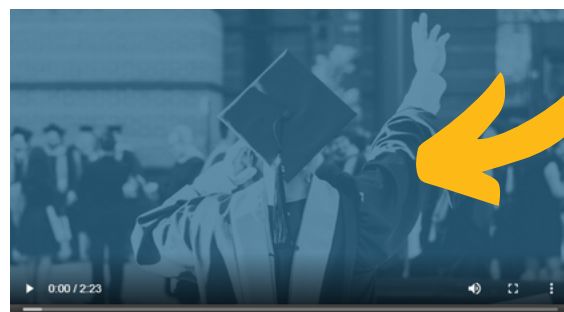
Katelyn will be teaching 2nd Grade this fall at St. Michaels in Sioux Falls.



Maddy Hyde is the daughter of Jim and Jill Hyde. Jim is the Pierre Region Operations Engineer.

She is graduating with a Medical Lab Science degree from SDSU.

Watch and share the Graduation video slideshow here!



SDDOT Celebrates 26 Years of Providing 511 Service to South Dakota Travelers



By David Huft, Intelligent Transportation Systems Program Manager



Strategic Objective: Continually Improve

Short Term Goal: Increase use of 511 services (app, phone, website)

SDDOT celebrated “511 Day” on Wednesday, May 11, 2022, as 511 marked more than a quarter of a century of service to South Dakota citizens and travelers.

South Dakota’s 511 traveler information telephone service started as #SAFE (#7223) in November 1996, then became 5-1-1 in 2001.

The free service provides real-time travel information 24/7, including incidents, construction, and weather forecasts. SDDOT also provides a 511 website (SD511.org), and a mobile app, SDDOT 511, which is available for both [iOS](#) and [Android](#) users. SDDOT has continually strived to improve traveler information and is committed to ongoing improvements to make 511 more valuable and useful to travelers.

With “511 Day”, here is a summary of the extensive 511 services SDDOT has provided through the years:

- 19 million SD511.org website user engagements
- Four million phone calls to 511 South Dakota
- Four million SDDOT 511 mobile app user engagements
- 200 thousand SDDOT 511 mobile app downloads
- Two million My511SD alerts via email, text, and app. Register at SD511.org.

As the SDDOT prepares for the busy summer construction schedule, South Dakota citizens and visitors can continue to turn to SD511 for all their traveler information needs.

Dakota News Now provided a great story featuring **Harry Johnston, Sioux Falls Area Engineer**, and a trucking company in Sioux Falls who relies on SD511 for travel decision-making year-round.

“511 Day” celebrates service that keeps travelers informed and safe



<https://www.dakotanewsnow.com/2022/05/12/511-day-celebrates-service-that-keeps-travelers-informed-safe/>



UAS Workshop

By Larry Dean, Planning Data Manager



The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), as part of its ongoing Everyday Counts Round 5 (EDC-5) initiative, along with the South Dakota Department of Transportation and the South Dakota Local Technical Assistance Program offered a two-day interactive virtual workshop on Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) on April 20 and 21, 2022.

There were 142 attendees that registered for this workshop. The attendees included other state agencies from South Dakota, tribal agencies, county and city officials, consultants, academicians, and other State Departments of Transportations.

The first day of the workshop provided the opportunity for attendees to hear presentation from subject matter experts concerning:

- Starting and growing a UAS program
- Implementing UAS technology in support of transportation applications
- Technology and UAS use case examples

Topics included UAS innovations in South Dakota as presented by SDDOT, South Dakota Highway Patrol, Minnehaha County, Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe, South Dakota State University, and Banner Associates.

The second day provided the opportunity for attendees to attend a breakout session on one of five transportation applications. These breakout sessions focused on the following:

- Pre-Construction: Project Scoping, Surveying - Cody Axlund Moderator
- Structural Inspection: Supplementing Bridge Inspections, Overhead Signs - Marc Hoelscher, Moderator
- Construction Inspection: Work Zone Traffic Monitoring, Construction Quantities - John Haynes, Moderator (FHWA)
- Emergency Response/Cold Weather Operations: Flooding Events, Landslides/Rock Falls, Extreme Condition Operations - Josh Olson, Moderator
- Tribal Transportation Program Management: Choctaw Nation, Cherokee Federal - Sarah Gilkerson, Moderator

The moderators from the breakout sessions gave a recap of each of the breakout sessions. There was a demonstration of a virtual UAS simulator developed by Clemson University. The South Dakota Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) Workshop was recorded. You can watch and access the recorded sessions through the Learning Management System (LMS). These sessions qualify for Professional Development Hours (PDH).

The following individuals from SDDOT helped plan the workshop: Larry Dean, Josh Olson, Cody Axlund, Jon Nelson, and Marc Hoelscher (FHWA).



Training Q & A

Training Program Assistant, Michele Beeler

With the new CPC review process and the HCP for Highway Maintenance Workers, tracking training and professional development is more important than ever.

Here are some frequently asked questions (and answers) to help you navigate the LMS.

Q. How do I find training that relates to me and my job?

Michele: We are creating curricula for all positions. There are currently 88 curricula created in the LMS, including New Employee Curriculum that gives you quick access to all the necessary courses like TKS Coding. The curricula were based on matrixes created by supervisors and are being assigned to employees as they fill an open position.

Q. How is training recorded in the LMS?

Michele: Any online class or video you watch in the LMS, is automatically recorded to your transcript. We record completions for all instructor-led SDDOT, TLN, BHR, and NHI classes that are scheduled. Make sure you sign the roster when you get to class.

Q. What if I take a class outside of SDDOT?

Michele: If you attend an out-of-state conference or another agency's training, then you can self-record the training using **External Training** in the LMS. Save the Certificate of Completion (if available) to your computer. In your TRANSCRIPT, click the menu (...) and ADD EXTERNAL TRAINING.

Q. I've worked at DOT for 15 years; does my training record go back to when I started?

Michele: Training data was downloaded from BHR going back to January 1, 2005, and DOT pulled AFE numbers back to 2002. Neither of them were the same format nor are they the same format as we use now. Therefore, it can be difficult to translate into our current requirements. And, because we downloaded data from two different sources, it is sometimes duplicated. Therefore, the data is there but not easily pulled out in reports.

Q. I completed the course in the LMS, but it is still shows In Progress on my transcript.

Michele: If you took an online class or watched a video on the LMS, it should automatically complete after a minute or two. If it doesn't, make sure you let the course run all the way to the end. Is there a "Complete Course" on the last screen? The LMS will sometimes request you to "Mark Complete" on videos.

If all else fails, send a screenshot showing you completed it to DOTLMS@state.sd.us so that we can track down the error.

NEW CLASSES on the LMS

Ethics Crash Course: Values and Character | AFE 7835 | 7 minutes

Welcome to “Ethics Crash Course: Values and Character,” a video lesson that defines what your values are and how they relate to your character. This lesson is the second of five in the “Ethics Crash Course,” which is intended to provide a foundation of what ethics are and how they should be dealt with in the workplace. Viewers will come to understand the difference between ethics and values.

The 5 Generations | AFE 7299 | 39 minutes

Welcome to “The 5 Generations” video course created to teach viewers what makes each generation tick. This course, comprising six video lessons, outlines each of the five generations in detail and explains how best to work with them. The first lesson sets the stage by describing the differences and similarities between the generations as a whole and establishes the importance of working effectively within a multigenerational workforce.

Distress Survey Training for Interns and Seasonal Workers Playlist | 17 courses | Created by Dani Doorn

Training for the interns and seasonal workers on MRMs, distracted driving, defensive driving class, fire prevention, first aid basics, speeding, and driver fatigue.

Media Training (Public Engagement) Wednesday, June 22, 2022, from 1 – 4:30 p.m. Room B-15 Becker-Hansen Bldg. in Pierre

This training is centered around content and delivery in SDDOT public engagement. It is applicable for anyone who plays a role in working with the public through public meetings, open houses, hiring events; as well as doing interviews, serving on panels, etc.

Thanks to the Subject Matter Experts who helped the training team create the online certification courses and the online recertification tests.

Online Recertification Courses:

All QC/QA: Shea Lemmel and Rick Rowen

- QC/QA Asphalt Concrete Roadway Inspection Recertification
- QC/QA Aggregate Testing Recertification
- QC/QA Hot Mix Recertification

ACI+DOT Class & Exam: Darrin Hodges

Introduction for Structures: Hadly Eisenbeisz and Tom Strubel

Online Recertification Tests:

Erosion & Sediment Control: Earl Berg

Concrete Paving: Jason Smith, Darin Hodges, Jesse Nelson, Matt Stone, Jerry Schaefer, and Steve Weisz

Earthworks: Darrel Henrichsen, Donel Lemler, Matt Stone, and Steve Weisz

Soils & Aggregates: Donel Lemler, Darrel Henrichsen, Robert Rowles, and Matt Stone

Structures: Kari Kroll

QC/QA Reporting: Shea Lemmel

Learning assignments and data for all certificates: Carrie Croxall & Aaron Storms



What to Expect Moving to ArcGIS Pro

By Kathryn Wesson

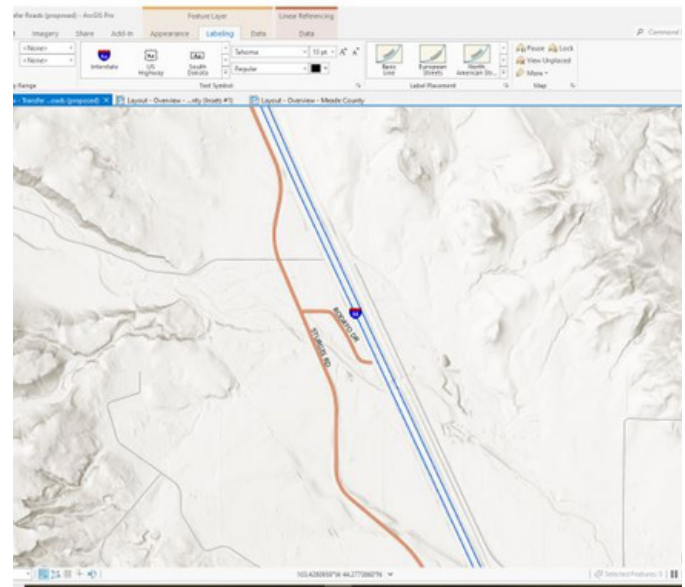
You may have heard that SDDOT will be transitioning its main GIS software to ArcGIS Pro sometime this year. With the retirement of Esri's ArcMap coming up by 2026, the GIS team has been preparing for the move by testing out the program. The following is a short overview regarding what to expect, and our personal experience with it so far.

Some key differences transitioning from ArcMap to ArcGIS Pro:

- Focus is on Online service integration (i.e. ability to pull data into maps from our organization's portal).
- No more MXD extensions; work is organized into "Projects" — consisting of maps, scenes, layouts, data, tables, tools, and connections to other resources — which, by default, are stored in its own system folder.
- Has a "ribbon feel" similar to Microsoft Office (i.e. menu items at the top of the page, and tools appear and "activate" depending on what kind of item is selected).
- No more starting and stopping the Editor; it's turned on by default.
- Can make schema changes to the data, such as renaming a field or adjusting a domain, without going through the geodatabase properties in ArcCatalog.

Noticeable benefits:

- Can create multiple definition queries for one layer and toggle them on/off.
- More efficient for creating series of maps. You can create multiple layouts within one session.
- Existing MXD files can be imported into ArcGIS Pro.



A few disadvantages:

- Map extent of data view does not carry over to layout view. This takes a little bit of time to get used to.
- Navigating and analysis is jerky, with a lag time of several seconds.
- DataHound is still functional but works a bit differently.

Overall, we feel this transition is more user-friendly to those who aren't heavy GIS users. Regardless, the GIS team will be here to help, and will be offering training TBD to ease the transition.

Questions? Contact us!

May Mentoring Minute

Recognizing Opportunities

By: Bridget Carnahan

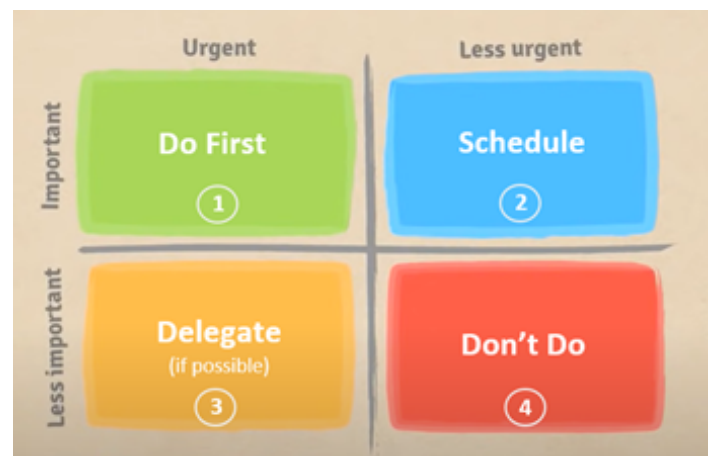


Have you ever looked back on an experience and thought “gosh I wish I hadn’t done that” or maybe you thought “I’m so glad I took that chance.” Maybe it’s reflecting on a position you chose not to apply for and now you’re thinking “I really should have taken a shot, but at the time it seemed so daunting.” Maybe it’s thinking about how you spend your time and what is a priority to you, “I’m so glad I’ve got great memories of time spent with friends and family!” It may seem a touch cliché, but hindsight is 20/20. The choices you made set you on the path you are today, make you who you are and can ultimately provide clarity.

After reflection, you may recognize those seemingly insurmountable obstacles for the opportunities that they were. For me, I seem to experience the most growth in the moments that are the hardest. You feel like you won’t make it through, but you just keep pushing. The cliché is true, what doesn’t kill you makes you stronger. Sorry if you now have that Kelly Clarkson song stuck in your head, but it’s amazing how rewarding those instances can really be for personal and professional growth. Think about everything you learn about yourself and your own toughness in these situations. This review helps us ultimately the next time we experience a similar situation. Learn from your choices and apply what you’ve learned to the next challenge.

Now opportunities rarely present themselves, like they do in cartoons with a light up sign saying “pick me”, “choose me”, or “this way” so being able to recognize these opportunities along the way is really important when progressing in your career and personal life. I know that I’ve been asked to assist with meetings or to be on a committee in addition to all the other work items I have going on. Let’s be honest, those invites from a colleague or a supervisor can be really intimidating.

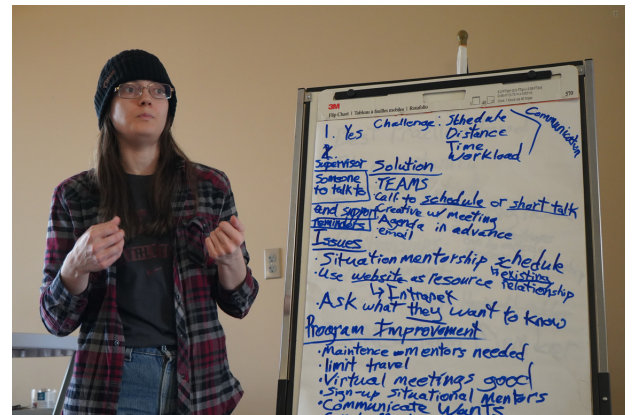
It’s probably easy to decline and say that you’re not interested but think about what doors open when you say yes. For me it seemed impossible at the time with my workload. I thought to myself, “how can I possibly add anything else?” I always kept to-do lists, which have utility, but in the end making sure that my time was spent on priority items, rather than on items not requiring immediate assistance and reduced my stress. There are a plethora of trainings available on the LMS regarding time and project management, but the [Eisenhower Matrix](#) was a small but very helpful tool that helped me organize my to-do’s while assigning priorities to those tasks. Give it a try for yourself.



May Mentoring Minute continued

Looking back provides a bit of perspective and clarity on days gone by. I'm not sure about you, but I would always rather take a shot at something I want or that I'm interested in. Is there a position you've been thinking about? Is there something you've been holding back on doing? Maybe you've been thinking about participating in the Mentoring Program but are afraid to take the next step and apply. Perhaps you've gotten the announcements about the Extra Mile Book Club and thought about signing up but decided against it. My point is that looking forward there will be opportunities, you just have to be willing to see them. I would implore you to take some chances, recognize the obstacles or challenges in your life for the opportunities they are, and learn something about yourself in the process.

The **Midpoint Energizer** was held on Tuesday, May 3, 2022, at an in-person event held in Pierre. This event celebrated the midway point of the mentoring program year. The event was fun and provided important time for mentoring pairs to discuss what has been accomplished to date, and what is planned for the next six months.



Rapid City Region won "Best Region Statewide" last fiscal year.

Thanks to Krystl Vermundson for getting pictures of each unit with the plaque!

Belle Fourche Area Engineering



Belle Fourche- Newell-Buffalo Crew



Bison-Faith- Lemmon Crew



Custer Area Engineering



Custer Maintenance



Hot Springs- Oelrichs-Edgemont



Rapid City Area Engineering



Rapid City Region Administration Staff



Rapid City Region Bridge



Rapid City Region Operations



Rapid City Region Repair Shop



Rapid City Region Traffic



Rapid City-Wall Crew



Sturgis-Deadwood Crew



Generational Knowledge

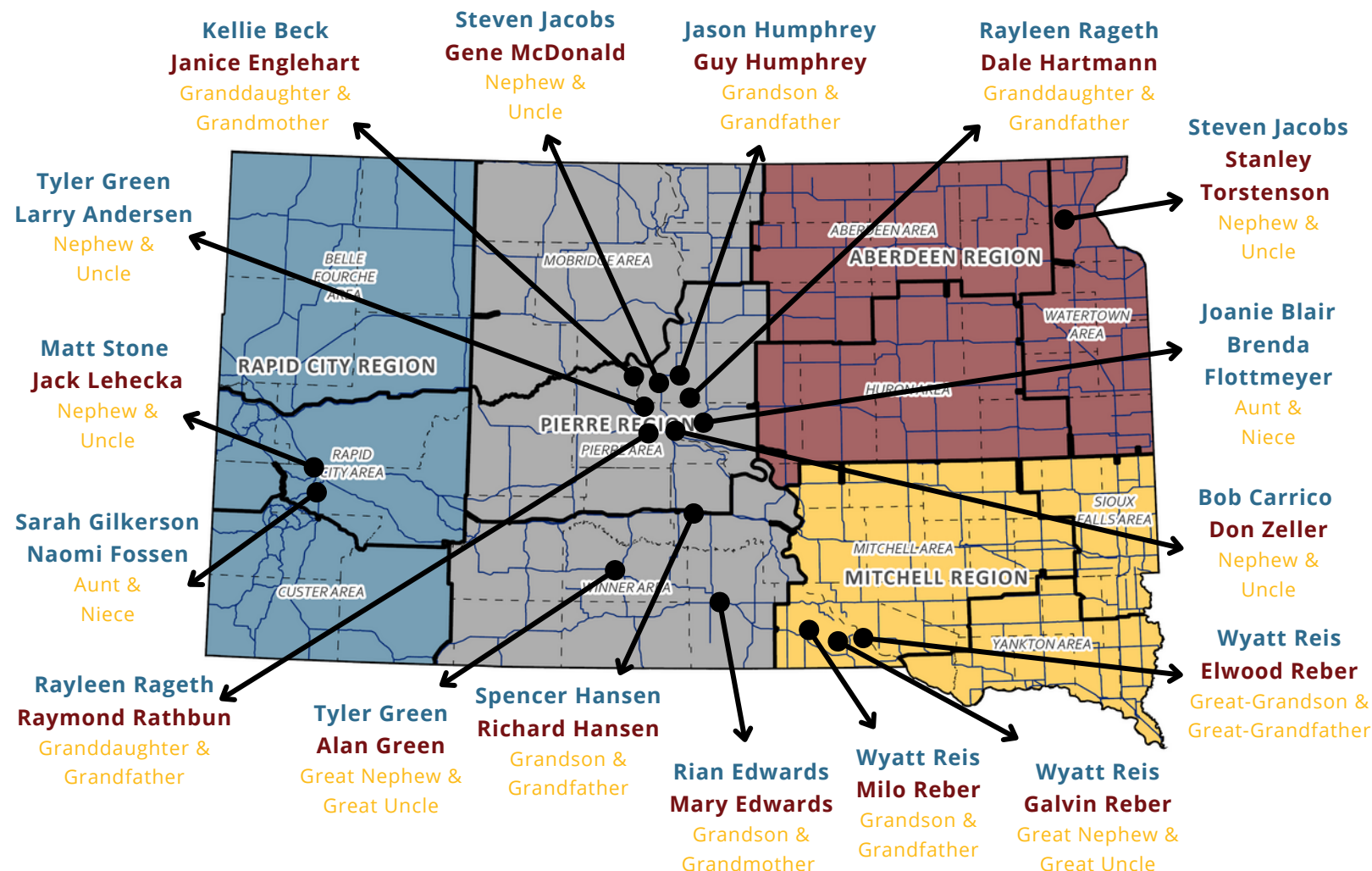
Decades of SDDOT Experience

For many of our colleagues, SDDOT has been the career choice among multiple generations. Positive SDDOT work experiences prompt future generations to seek education and experience to pursue a career within the SDDOT.

In last months newsletter we took a look at the knowledge shared between brothers, sisters, cousins, and in-laws within the SDDOT. This month we look at the grandparents, grandkids, aunt, uncles, nieces, and nephews who work together to build a better transportation system for South Dakota!

We appreciate this generational story idea that was given through the Connecting the DOTS newsletter survey! Due to the outpouring of responses; we will continue to highlight SDDOT generational family connecting points in upcoming newsletters.

Map Key: Current DOT employees are in blue text. Former DOT employees are in red text; and the relationship is noted in yellow. Arrows indicate the general area which the employees work/worked.



If you have information for this multi-part series, please email: bret.mattice@state.sd.us

In Sympathy . . .



Our sympathy to Heidi Olson, BHR Human Resources Manager/Business Partner and other family members, as well as friends and co-workers, on the passing of Alec Whitney of Murdo.

Alec passed away on Friday, May 13, 2022, due to health complications.

Alec was recently hired as a Technician for the Pierre Area office.

Mass of Christian Burial was held 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 21, 2022, at the Harold Thune Auditorium; with Interment at the Murdo Cemetery.

<http://www.rushfuneralhome.com/Obituaries/Details/d51e107d-6b4c-4d37-866d-928ebca1e4d7>



Our Sympathy to the family and friends of Janine Ward of Aberdeen.

Janine Ward, spouse of Aberdeen Engineering Supervisor Robert Ward, passed away Friday, May 20, 2022.

A viewing will be held on Wednesday, May 25, 2022, from 3-7 p.m. at Spitzer-Miller Funeral Home in Aberdeen. Family will receive friends between the hours of 5-7 p.m.

Memorial services will be held Thursday, May 26, 2022, at 10:30 a.m. at St. Mark's Episcopal Church.

All family, friends, and any others whose lives were touched by Janine are welcome to attend.

<https://www.spitzerfuneralhome.com/obituaries/Janine-Marie-Ward?obId=24900004#/celebrationWall>

SDDOT Employee News and Updates . . .

SDDOT team members generously share their time, talent and resources across the state.



SDDOT team members in Pierre (Central Office, Pierre Area, and Pierre Region) collected food and cash donations for the **Pierre Area Referral Services (PARS)** during their Ardis Townsend Challenge. **Kari Kroll**, is pictured presenting the food and cash donation to PARS Executive Director, Corwin Jones.

The Ardis Townsend Challenge creates a match to all donations made – dollar for dollar, pound for pound – by some of the local banks.



In total, SDDOT participants collected \$860 and 162 pounds of non-perishable food.

The Aberdeen Region Administration, Operations, Aberdeen Area Engineering, and Maintenance Team donated \$150 to the Yelduz Shrine Circus.

This donation was used to purchase 30 tickets given to local schools, so the kids could attend the circus for free.



BF Lions Chevrons Awarded for Longtime Service

Ron Ens
Special to the Beacon

The Belle Fourche Lions Club awarded anniversary Chevrons at its meeting on April 14, 2022 at Grap's Burgers and Brews.

The Chevron Award Program recognizes Lions for their long-term service, beginning at 10 years and continuing in 5-year increments thereafter.

The Club honored all of the Chevrons awarded for 2020, 2021 and 2022.

In total, 325 years of Chevrons were awarded to ten long-time members of the Club.

The Belle Fourche Lions Club has provided continuous leadership in both public service and community improvements since the Club was chartered in 1936.

The Lions Club is committed to its effort to reflect the Lions Club motto – WE SERVE!

If you would like more information about the Belle Fourche Lions Club or if you have an interest in joining the Belle Fourche Lions Club, visit their website at Lions of Belle Fourche (www.bellefourche-lions.org).



Pictured left to right: **Rik Bartels**, 15 yrs; **Bob Morris**, 30 yrs; **Dwight Gubbrud**, 25 yrs; **Eric Beals**, 40 yrs; **Rick Walton** 20 yrs; **Ron Ens**, 30 yrs. Not pictured: **Robert Drabek**, 55 yrs; **Rich Drabek**, 45 yrs; **John Cooper**, 40 yrs, and **Harry Halvala**, 25 yrs.. Courtesy Photo

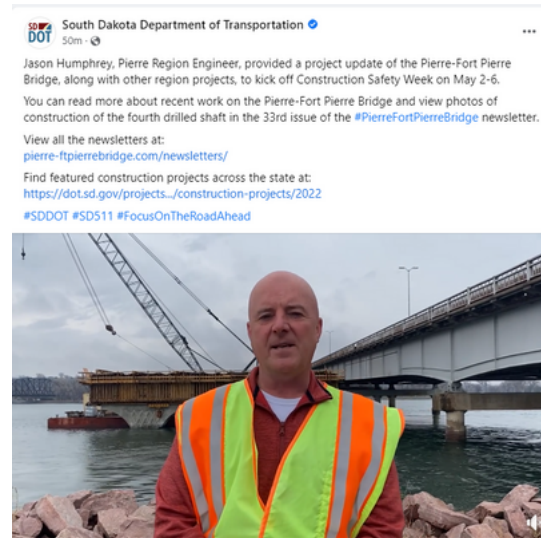
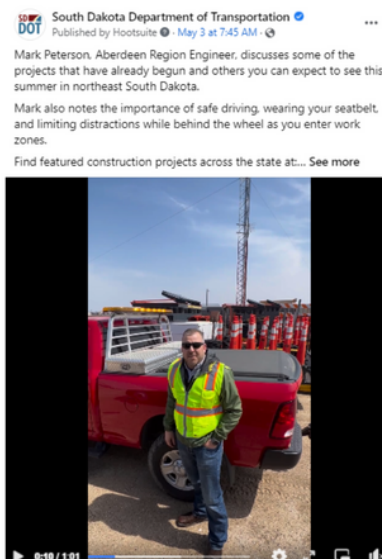
Congratulations Rick Walton and Rik Bartels, two of our Belle Fourche Maintenance Team members, for being recognized for your dedication and service to the community through the Belle Fourche Lions Club!

SDDOT Employee News and Updates. . .



Thanks to Mark Peterson and Jason Humphrey for kicking off Construction Safety Week, and providing an update of region-based construction projects!

The SDDOT will share safety messages from our staff in the field all summer. The goal is to bring awareness to the dangers of distracted driving and to always **FOCUS ON THE ROAD AHEAD!**



Welcome to all new SDDOT employees! We are glad you have joined our TEAM!
Photos below are from New Employee Orientation held in Pierre on May 17, 2022.



SDDOT Employee News and Updates. . .

May Longevity:

Jim Lolley, Highway Maintenance Supervisor – 20 Years (Winner Area)

Randy Lee, Project Technician – 30 Years (Sioux Falls Area)

Krystl Vermundson, Senior Secretary – 20 Years (Rapid City Region)

Chris Ott, Internal Services Program Manager – 25 Years (Central Office)

Jim Hyde, Operations Engineer – 35 Years (Pierre Region)

Darin Charlson, Traffic Data Analyst/ Tech Leadworker - 25 Years (Central Office)

Mark Reiss, Project Control Number Coordinator - 30 Years (Central Office)

Kenny Stolley, Sign & Striping Crew - 45 Years (Pierre Area)



Christina Bennett, Construction & Maintenance Engineer, is pictured with Doran Raymond (left) and Mark Nagel (right), both members of the Mitchell Region Striping crew.

Doran and Mark are retiring in June, and were recently honored during the Pavement Marking Conference in Deadwood.

Doran has worked for 10 years and Mark 35 years with the Mitchell Region Striping crew! Mark noted things have changed quite a lot since he began in the 80's!

New Hires:

Michael McDermott, Highway Maintenance Worker - Sioux Falls

Isaac Schulz, Project Engineer - Custer

Hunter Robinson, Journey Transportation Technician - Belle Fourche

Megan Foreman, Journey Transportation Technician - Belle Fourche

Joseph Volberding, Journey Transportation Technician - Belle Fourche

Carson Tschetter, Road Design Engineer - Pierre

Parker Riddle, Project Engineer - Huron

Dennis Brooks, Right-Of-Way CAD Technician - Pierre

Cooper Kutcha, Project Engineer I - Yankton

Darla Brandlee, Senior Secretary - Watertown

Katlyn Wieme, Legal Assistant - Pierre

Kent Hall, Highway Maintenance Worker - Faulkton

Andrew Undt, Structural Engineer - Pierre

Austin Tietz, Highway Maintenance Worker - Mitchell

Amy Cadwell, Partsroom Technician - Pierre

Glen Wilson, Highway Maintenance Worker - Clark

Promotions/Lateral Transfers:

Nicholas Lemke, Lead Highway Maintenance Worker - Mitchell

Jeremy Marsh, Bidding & Quality Project Engineer - Pierre

Michael Johnson, Lead Highway Maintenance Worker - Webster

Joel Lancaster, Materials Lab Tech - Pierre

SDDOT Employee News and Updates. . .



Doug Kinniburgh, Local Government Assistance Engineering Supervisor in Central Office, celebrated 30 years of service with the SDDOT.

Doug is pictured receiving his longevity pin and plaque from **Administration Program Manager, Joanne Hight**.



Pictured is **Jim Lolley** receiving his 20 years of service Longevity Pin from **Doug Sherman, Winner Area Engineer**.

Jim is the Highway Maintenance Supervisor for Kadoka, Murdo and Presho within Winner Area.



Krystl Vermundson, Senior Secretary in the Rapid City Region Office, received her 20 year pin on Monday, May 16, 2022, from **Tom Horan, Region Operations Engineer**. Congratulations, Krystl! Thank you for all that you do.



Jim Hyde, Pierre Region Operations Engineer received his 35 year pin from **Jason Humphrey, Pierre Region Engineer**.

SDDOT Employee News and Updates. . .



Chris Ott, Internal Services Program Manager (Central Office) received his 25 year pin from **Craig Smith, Director of Operations.**



Kyle Meier, Highway Maintenance Worker on the Pierre Region Bridge crew pictured receiving his 10-year longevity pin.



Justin Touring, Highway Maintenance Worker, in the Watertown Area recently received his 15-year longevity pin!



Dale Ottenbacher, Custer Area Project Technician, received his 15-year pin from **Tim Wicks, Custer Area Engineering Manager II.**

SDDOT Employee News and Updates . . .

Meet . . . Andrew "Drew" McDonald

Drew was born Nov. 26, 2021.

Drew is the son of Andrew and Courtney McDonald.

Courtney is a Structural Engineer in Sioux Falls.



Meet . . . Ella Wren Fischer

Ella was born on April 7, 2022.

She weighed 8 lbs. 4 oz.

Ella is the granddaughter of **Dave Priebe, Lead Highway Maintenance worker in Chamberlain.**



Agency Partnerships for Safety - Inspector Challenge

On Saturday, May 14, 2022, Motor Carrier Inspectors and Troopers competed in the **2022 Inspector Challenge**. This event was held in conjunction with the South Dakota Truck Driving Championships. The competitors knowledge, skills, and abilities were tested in both written and practical exercises.

The SDDOT provided the trucks and facilities for the challenge and **Curt Theisen, Lead Highway Maintenance Worker - Sioux Falls Area**, worked with the Department of Public Safety to help create deficiencies on the trucks for the competition.